Training for child beggars to become self-dependent

2242. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the problem of beggary in Delhi especially on and around the traffic lights;

(b) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken by Government to rescue the poor people from the clutches of beggary;

(c) whether in order to rescue the children from beggary, Government propose to have some Children Homes-cum-Training Institutes in Delhi, which can rear and train them to become self-dependent youth; and

(d) whether Government have any policy of involving the NGOs and voluntary organization working in this areas ?

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA) : (a) Yes, Sir. The Ministry is aware of the problem of beggary in Delhi in and around the traffic lights.

(b) to (d) The Government have taken a number of steps to check beggary including beggary by children. The rehabilitation of beggars, including child beggars, is undertaken by State Governments under their respective programmes and legislations. Some State Governments and Union Territories have separate legislations to prevent beggary. In Delhi, the Bombay Prevention of Begging Act, 1959 is in force under which beggars are arrested by the Anti-Begging Squad of Government of Delhi with the help of Delhi Police. A number of Beggar Homes are being run by the Government of Delhi, where they are given vocational training in skills like candle making, cutting & tailoring, auto repairs etc. Provisions have been made in the Juvenile Justice [Care and Protection of Children] Act, 2000 whereby employing or using a juvenile or child for begging has been made a cognizable offence carrying a punishment of imprisonment upto three years and fine. The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment is also running schemes for street children and juveniles which include child beggars under which grants-in-aid are given to Non-Governmental Organisations for providing non-institutional basic services for the care, protection, vocational education and development of street children facing destitution, neglect, abuse and exploitation.